

**Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County
Youth Committee Meeting**

November 29, 2018 - 2:30 – 4:00pm

CareerForce North Saint Paul

2266 2nd Street North, No. St. Paul, MN 55109

Members Present

Karen Gerdin
Jennifer Germain
Jane Nicholson
Paul Nikstad
Tim O'Brien

Members Absent

Tom Aasheim
Larry Gilbertson
Brian Goodspeed
Kathy Kittel-EA
Joy Nyabwari

Staff/Guests Present

Becky Milbrandt, WIB Staff
Katie Peterson, Job Corps
CJ Stanton, Workforce Solutions
Dunn Yoshitani, Workforce Solutions

Call to Order

Chair Paul Nikstad called the meeting to order at 2:39 pm. All those in attendance introduced themselves.

Approve September Youth Committee Minutes

Motion (O'Brien/Germain) to approve the September 27, 2018 Youth Committee minutes as presented.

Motion carried.

Updates

Outreach to Schools Program: Stanton reported that the program is running at one school currently. He will be screening two additional prospective interns soon. Once fully staffed, interns will be at LEAP, Como, Humboldt and Creative Arts High Schools. Stanton stated that the WIB approved \$7,000 in additional funds so that each intern can work up to 15 hours per week, which is the same as last year.

Youth Monitoring Report: Yoshitani reported that the written monitor's report has still not been received. Stanton recently received responses to the questions asked during the monitor's visit, primarily around eligibility and the documentation needed to prove income level and/or homelessness. The state determined that self-attestation is sufficient if other documentation isn't available.

APEX Career Exploration Program Grant

Yoshitani reported that Workforce Solutions has been named a referral partner in this DEED funded grant application. The primary applicant is the Finishing Trades Institute of the Midwest. The program will provide six-week pre-apprenticeships in various trades. Ramsey County has several youth participants interested in these careers, so this program will be an excellent opportunity to place youth ages 16-24 in the construction industry while also filling skills gaps. Yoshitani agreed to check into the English language requirements.

TANF Innovation/Co-Enrollment Policy

Stanton shared information about a current project in which WFS youth and public assistance counselors are working together to place youth on public assistance, or the children of public assistance recipients, in work experiences. HIRED is also part of this partnership. HIRED is serving 50 youth and WFS is serving 20 additional youth. There was sufficient funding to offer \$15/hour for the month of December, the last month of the grant. This project highlighted the benefits of a co-enrollment policy that allows different service agencies and internal counselors to work together to provide more collaborative and less duplicative services. Stanton share data from the first quarterly report which showed that 15 youth were co-enrolled. There was lengthy discussion about needed changes in income thresholds for public assistance eligibility to lessen the effects of benefits cliffs. It was decided that Nikstad will bring this issue up at tomorrow's Executive Committee meeting and request that the Policy Committee consider including it in the 2019 WIB policy platform. The Youth Committee would like to review all of the WIB's proposed policy statements at the January meeting.

ULEAD Performance Outcomes

Yoshitani distributed a summary of PY17/18 youth outcomes. All MYP and WIOA Youth program goals were attained. Yoshitani explained that many youth in the ULEAD program are gaining their first work experience. More emphasis is being placed on not just getting youth their first job but building on that experience to gain the skills needed for a better job.

2019 Meeting Schedule

As suggested at the September committee meeting, the 2019 meetings have been tentatively scheduled for the third Thursday of odd numbered months. Calendar invites will be sent once the schedule is approved.

Motion (O'Brien/Gerdin) to approve the 2019 Youth Committee meeting schedule as presented. Motion carried.

Other

Nikstad reported that he recently attended an Anoka County Youth Committee meeting. They finish each meeting with time for members to share updates on their programs. Nikstad suggested that this practice be added to future agendas.

Voc. Rehabilitation (VR): Germain stated that there are a lot of staff changes within DEED. She also explained that unfunded WIOA mandates have significantly increased the volume and complexity of VR's caseloads. These challenges are inspiring creative service delivery approaches. With a waiting list for VR services, WFS is seeing increased numbers of applicants with disabilities.

Century College: Nicholson shared information about the programs offered through the college's five-year Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institution (AANAPISI) grant. A dedicated navigator is providing academic support for these students. The program focus is on trades and technical training.

Roseville ABE: O'Brien reported on the launch of a seven-month apprenticeship program providing hand on and literacy training for a dozen Karen and Nepali students.

Saint Paul Public Schools ABE: Gerdin stated that the Hubbs Center offers four levels of college readiness programs. She is trying to inform more high school counselors about these offerings so more students who need help to be college-level ready can take advantage of these programs.

Job Corps: Peterson stated that nationally, Job Corps has been struggling to meet enrollment targets. The Saint Paul Center attained their goal this week. New programs that are more pathways focused are being implemented.

Adjourn

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 3:51pm.

Next Meeting: January 17, 2019, 2:30-4:00 in Training Room B, North Saint Paul Affiliate Workforce Center